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Bad may turn to worse for California adult schools

Mar 24, 2011

[Cynthia E. Griffin](#) | OW Co-Editor

Compton slated for closure

In the 31 years she has worked at the Compton Adult School, Sandra Bishop says this is the worst financial situation the program has faced.

“Bar none. It’s the worst time for education period, but adult education specifically and other categorical programs in general,” said the longtime director of the Compton Adult School.

Bishop said the hardships began during the 2008-09 fiscal year. In response to the state budget crises, then-governor Arnold Schwarzenegger funded adult education and other categorical programs at the 2007-08 revenue levels minus about 20 percent.

Additionally, according to Mike Wada, president of the California Council on Adult Education (CCAEE), for decades the legislature identified pots of money they wanted set aside for specific protected programs such as adult education.

During the recent state budget crises, Wada said that the “fire wall” between programs like adult education and the rest of the state education budget came down for about four years.

Wada noted that in many instances, school districts were forced into the difficult position of choosing between educating children or their parents. “Since their mission was kids, (many) took the money to support kindergarten-12 education, displacing adult programs.”

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